25. (Amended four times) A method of enhancing penetration of an antisense nucleic acid across the alimentary canal of an animal comprising administering to said animal the composition of claim 44, wherein said composition enhances penetration of said nucleic acid across the alimentary canal of said animal.

50. (Amended) The composition of claim 49 wherein said antisense oligonucleotide decreases the expression of a cellular adhesion protein or the rate of cellular proliferation.

54. (Amended) The composition of claim 44 wherein said composition is propylene glycol based.

61. (Amended twice) A composition comprising a nucleic acid and capric acid or lauric acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said nucleic acid has at least one chemical modification selected from the group consisting of a modified nucleobase and a modified sugar residue.

63. (Amended) The composition of claim 62 wherein said antisense oligonucleotide decreases the expression of a cellular adhesion protein or the rate of cellular proliferation.

64. (Amended) The composition of claim 61 wherein said nucleic acid has at least one chemical modification selected from the group consisting of a cytosine to 5-methyl-cytosine substitution and a 2'-methoxyethoxy modification.

66. (Amended) A method of delivering an antisense nucleic acid to the intestinal mucosa comprising contacting the alimentary canal with a composition comprising a nucleic acid and at least two fatty acids, or pharmaceutically acceptable salts thereof, wherein said nucleic acid has at least

one chemical modification selected from the group consisting of a cytosine to 5-methyl-cytosine substitution, a phosphorothioate linkage and a 2'-methoxyethoxy modification.

74. (Amended) The method of claim 73 wherein said antisense oligonucleotide decreases the expression of a cellular adhesion protein or the rate of cellular proliferation.

76. (Amended) The method of claim 66 wherein said composition is propylene glycol based.

80. (Amended) The method of claim 66 wherein said composition further comprises a bile salt.

82. (New claim) A method of delivering an antisense nucleic acid to the intestinal mucosa comprising contacting the alimentary canal with a composition comprising a nucleic acid and capric acid or lauric acid or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, wherein said nucleic acid has at least one chemical modification selected from the group consisting of a cytosine to 5-methyl-cytosine substitution and a 2'-methoxyethoxy modification.

REMARKS

Claims 25-27, 40, 44-50, 53-64 and 66-81 were pending in the present application. Claims 40, 56, and 78 have been cancelled without prejudice to their presentation in another application. Claims 25, 50, 54, 61, 63, 64, 66, 74, 76 and 80 have been amended herein. New claim 82 has been added. Upon entry of the present Amendment, claims 25-27, 44-50, 53-55, 57-64, 66-77, and 79-82 will be pending. Because the amendments to the claims remove issues for appeal (*i.e.*, indefiniteness), Applicants respectfully request that they be entered into the record. See, M.P.E.P. § 714.12. In addition, the amendments to the claims do not raise new issues that would require further consideration or a new search.

As a preliminary matter, Applicants thank the Examiner for allowing time to telephonically interview the present application on July 12, 2001 along with Mr. Bartfeld of ISIS Pharmaceuticals,